



8.30 a.m – 3.00 p.m.

29 November 2008

Garden Terrace, Stamford Plaza, Sydney Airport, Mascot, New South
Wales 2008

Minute

PRESENT; Co-operative Federation of New South Wales (Helen McCall and Jim Sneesby), Co-operative Federation of Queensland (Jim Howard), Co-operative Federation of South Australia (David Osgood and Trevor Schmidt), Co-operative Federation of Victoria (Tony O'Shea and David Griffiths), Co-operatives WA (Chris Enright and Peter Wells) and NZCA (Ramsay Margolis)

1. Meeting Notes

That the minute of CCA meetings include time, location, date and venue of meeting, a list of attendees, resolutions passed and any motions defeated or deferred for future consideration.

M: CFNSW S: CW CARRIED

2. Meeting Procedures

That members requesting a decision from the CCA on any issue provide a supporting paper with options and/or recommendations and circulate the paper before the meeting unless the CCA meeting at which all Federations are present decides there are exceptional circumstances.

M: CW S: CFSA CARRIED

3. CCA Status

That the CCA continue as an un-incorporated body with membership by the State Co-operative Federations of NSW; Qld; SA; WA and Victoria.

That the CCA be described as "The National body for State Co-operative Federations".

That all CCA communications carry both the description and the name of the member Federations.

M: CW S: CFV CARRIED

4. Reports from State Federations, NZCA and ICA

Brief reports were provided by CFNSW, NZCA, CFQLD, CFSA, CFV, Co-operatives WA. and NZCA .

5. Australia/New Zealand co-operative dialogue and co-ordination

There was a brief discussion on the need for and desirability of co-operation between the Australian and New Zealand peak bodies.

It was agreed that the NZCA would be invited to participate in future agenda items of Co-operatives Australia when NZCA involvement would be of mutual benefit.

6. Legislation Update

There was a brief discussion on the issue of national co-operative legislation.

That each Federation write to the Minister complaining about the lack of progress with the development of co-operative legislation.

M: CFNSW S: CFQ

CARRIED

7. Co-operative Advocacy

7.1 News releases.

That news releases should be issued by the CCA Chair on issues relevant to the co-operative movement provided drafts are circulated before release and there is majority agreement and members given three business days response time unless there are exceptional circumstances justifying an immediate release which is to be subsequently justified and/or there is an agreed CCA position paper and/or formal resolution.

That Federations are encouraged to submit ideas for news releases and forward these to the Secretary of the CCA.

M: CFQ S: CFSA CARRIED

7.2 CCA Position Statements

The following recommendation from CFV was tabled:

That the CCA develop a series of CCA position statements with the first three on co-operative education, demutualisation and child care.

7.3 Public Policy Statements

Co-operatives WA tabled a document prepared from a report Elizabeth Cheong (WA Phd student) presented to the WA Council, calling on governments to issue clear statements of a Public Policy nature across a range of portfolios that acknowledge and promote the co-operative principles and the co-operative business model.

The following recommendation from Co-operatives WA was tabled:

That the CCA develop and promote at the federal level an agreed list of Public Policy Statements expected of the government with each CCA Member to make comparable representations to their state government.

8. Co-ops Europe

A special guest visitor at the meeting was Rainer Schlüter Director of Cooperatives Europe and ICA Director for the European region since 2004 – a special guest speaker at the CFNSW Conference. He was previously General Secretary of the European Confederation of Workers Co-operatives, Social co-operatives and Social and Participative Enterprises. Visit the Cooperatives Europe web site: <http://www.coopseurope.coop>

Rainer suggested that Co-operatives Europe would be interested in exploring co-operative relationships with Co-operatives Australia but Co-operatives Australia would have to be a member of the International Co-operative Alliance.

That the Co-operative Council of Australia be renamed Co-operatives Australia

M: CFV S: CW

CARRIED

It was also agreed to explore the options for a Co-operatives Australia logo. The NZCA offered to assist in the development of a logo.

In co-operative advocacy Co-operatives Australia will be apolitical, will not take sides between Federations and co-operatives and while advocating the co-operative option will not become involved in detailed industry specific or social issues unless requested by any industry specific members.

M: CFQ S: CW

CARRIED

9. Co-operative Education

Two papers prepared by Graeme Charles were circulated previously to the CCA. These papers were prepared in response to a request by the CCA interested in exploring the role and impact of the UK Co-operative College in Australia. The question posed was whether or not the CCA should develop a formal relationship with the UK Co-operative College. The papers addressed the possible nature for this formal relationship because of the suggestion made at the CCA meeting. They did not, therefore, address the option of not developing a formal relationship with the CCA and leaving this relationship up to individual Federations.

That the Co-operative Education paper be adopted as a Co-operatives Australia policy paper not for public distribution and with the addition of arguments about the benefits of co-operation.

M: CFV S: CFQ

CARRIED

It was noted that a brief information sheet on co-operative education should be subsequently prepared.

It was noted that CFNSW and CFV needed to discuss the provision of education programs in NSW and the role of the UK Co-operative College and would report to the next meeting of Co-operatives Australia/

10. Demutualisation

It was agreed that the demutualisation paper needed to be rewritten with the deletion of reference to any co-operatives recently or currently involved in demutualisation, that the tone should be constructive and positive about best practice, that the paper would not be for public distribution and

would provide a basis for the development of a brief best practice information sheet for members and co-operatives.

These redrafts will be considered by the next meeting of Co-operatives Australia.

11. Top 100 Co-ops, Credit Unions and Mutuals

That a final list of top 100 top co-operatives, credit unions and mutuals based on group sales at a gross sales level for the most recent available and identified financial year be prepared for publication in 2009 with Federations preparing State lists for inclusion by CFV and informing those on the list from their State that the list was to be published in 2009 and seeking any necessary correction to the turnover figure.

M: CWA S: CFSA

CARRIED

12. Gary Lewis book

That CCA members consider obtaining copies of The Democracy Principle ***Farmer Co-operatives in Twentieth Century Australia (2006)*** for distribution to co-operatives and educational institutions.

M: CFQ S: CFSA

CARRIED

13. ICA Membership

That in principle Co-operatives Australia pursue the possibility of applying for membership of the international Co-operative Alliance and that further information be sought on the costs and benefits of membership include a potential relationship between Co-operatives Europe and Co-operatives Australia.

M: CFQ S: CW

CARRIED

14. Transnational co-operatives e.g. Capricorn Society, Ravensdown, Fonterra and Rabobank

This item was deferred for future consideration.

15. australia.coop

In principle, if Victoria rebadged the australia.coop web site for Co-operatives Australia we should support that subject to further consideration of a report from CFV on the rebadging..

M: CW S: CFQ

CARRIED-

16. Retailers Forum

Helen McCall provided an update on the retail co-operative workshop.

That Co-operatives Australia no longer pursue the possibility of a retail co-operative workshop.

M: CW S: CFQ

CARRIED

17. Next Meeting

23 February 2009 teleconference to be organised by CFSA.

It was noted it was important to put a time limit on the teleconference.

It was also agreed that a face to face meeting would be held in September 2009 when Co-operativesWA would be organising a conference and that the travel costs would be pooled between all Federations.

Prepared by Secretary: **30 November 2008**

Authorised by Chairperson:

Distributed to Co-operatives Australia members: